

WATER Center
101 E. Pawnee
Wichita, KS 67211
Open 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays
Closed Holidays
(316) 337-9262
Fax (316) 337-9266
www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Environmental/WATERCenter/



H₂O happenings observations

A Quarterly Publication of the WATER Center

July - September 2006

Volume 1, Issue 3

What's Inside?

- **E-Newsletter Opportunity**
- **Get Buggy!**
- **Watercress Harvest**
- **Meetings and Events**
- **Program Schedule**

What's New?

Meet Lynn!

Donated by a local fisherman and his daughter, "Lynn" is a twenty-five-plus pound flathead catfish who was caught in the Arkansas River.

Although Lynn looks big, the largest flathead catfish caught in Kansas weighed ninety pounds!

Lynn will temporarily join the family of fish living in the outdoor aquarium and will be returned to the river at the end of 2006.

As Lynn is a nocturnal fish, the best times for viewing are in the late evening and early morning.



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The WATER Center
is located in:
Herman Hill Park

Open daily sunrise to sunset
18-hole disc golf course
Accessible trails
Playground equipment
Picnic areas

Skateboarding, swimming and fishing
are prohibited

The Life of Water Never Ends,

It merely has different bodies.

*~ Excerpt from
Albert Goldbarth's poetry
composed for the
WATER Center*

Sometimes a short phrase can sum
up a large, complicated process.
Songs and poems are especially
adept at doing this.

The unique nature of water: its
anatomy, economics, politics, and
vulnerability, can influence our life
in often-unseen ways. How often
have you taken the time to think
water's impact on your day?

If you are lacking in "liquid
inspiration," the signs along the
trail at the WATER Center offer an

opportunity to reflect on the
complexity of water through
poetry.

The value of water, the water
cycle, the age of water – these
concepts and more are eloquently
displayed at key points along the
trail and near the buildings.

*~Albert Goldbarth is a nationally-
known literary writer and a
Wichita resident. Among
numerous other honors, he is the
recipient of two National Book
Critics Circle Awards for his
books of poetry.*

*He offers these vision to Herman
Hill Park in the spirit of water;
light to hold, but of long effect.*

Photo by Gavin Peters

Save a Tree – Get the "H₂O" Electronically!

The City of Wichita's "MyWichita" service will deliver the
H₂O newsletter right to your computer.

Waiting anxiously by the
mailbox for the next issue of
H₂O? Wait no more! *H₂O*
is now available through the
City's "MyWichita" service.

"MyWichita" will notify you
as soon as the *H₂O* is posted
on the WATER Center's
webpage – often days before
it goes through the mail. An
electronic newsletter also
allows you to easily send the
newsletter on to other friends

and family.

Signing up is easy and free!
On the "MyWichita"
website, you can also choose
to be notified of other city
events, pay your water bill,
and search job openings.



How Do I sign up?
www.wichita.gov/mywichita

1. Click "Sign In"
2. Click "Register"
3. Type in the information
required and click
"Register My Account"
4. Under the heading **City
Information** choose
"Receive daily updates
sent right to you email"
5. Then, simply check the
boxes that you want to
hear about!



PROGRAM REGISTRATION

~Registration Will Close 5 Days Before the Program Date~

Participant Name: _____ Circle one: M F
Address: _____
City: _____ **Zip:** _____
Telephone: Day: _____ Evening: _____
E-mail: _____
Please Check one: ☒ Over 18 years old ☐ Under 18, what age: _____
Parent/Leader Name: _____

I PLAN TO ATTEND THESE PROGRAMS:

	DATE	PROGRAM	TIME	AGE	COST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	July 18	Dirty Art	2-4 PM	Grades 4-12	\$ 2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	July 21	Youth Volunteer Day	1-3 PM	Ages 8-15	Free
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	July 27-28	Secret Agent Worms!	10-12 PM	Grades 2-6	\$ 5
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	September 1	Youth Volunteer Day	1-3 PM	Ages 8-15	Free
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	September 25	Build a Fish	10-11 AM	Grade K-2	\$ 2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	September 25	Journey With Water	2-4 PM	Grade 3-8	\$ 2

REGISTRATION COMPLETION:

Program Fee Totals _____. Make check payable to the **WATER Center**.
Mail Registration and Fees to: PROGRAMS, WATER Center,
101 E. Pawnee, Wichita, KS 67211
Or Fax: 316-337-9266

Happenings

Program Schedule

YOUTH VOLUNTEER DAYS

Youth Volunteer Days are for children **ages 8-15** years old and space is limited.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

There will be youth volunteer activities from **1 p.m. until 3 p.m.** on the following days:

Friday, July 21st
Project: Algae Rodeo!
Wear shorts and sandals and prepare to get wet and wild while we clean out the fountains.

Friday, September 1st
Project: Habitat Clean Up.
We will clean out the nesting boxes and trim up the trees along our creek-side habitat.

Youth



SECRET AGENT WORMS!
Mission #1:
Thursday, July 27th
& Mission #2:
Friday, July 28th
10 AM – Noon (2 days)
Grades: 2-6
Fee: \$5.00

Pre-registration required

Join the Secret Agent Worms for this two-day event. Prepare for a hair-raising experience as Super Spies Napoleon Soil and Jane Blonde tackle the biggest mission of their lives. Their job: Find out who is stealing our dirt. Their challenge: Stay alive!

FISH TALES

Second Tuesday of the Month
July 11th, August 8th, September 12th
10 AM, Ages 2-6, Free

No registration needed

Join the WATER Center staff for story time and a nature surprise! This program is designed for Pre-K aged children, but all are welcome to attend.

DIRTY ART

Tuesday, July 18th
2-4 PM

Grades: 4-12, Fee: \$2.00

Pre-registration required

Dirt comes in a rainbow of colors. We will explore why soil colors vary and create art using Kansas' mud.

YOUTH VOLUNTEER DAYS

Friday, July 21st & Friday, September 1st
1:00 – 3:00 PM

Ages 8-15, Free, Pre-registration required
Help the museum staff with WATER Center projects.

BUILD A FISH

Monday, September 25th
10-11 AM

Grades: K-2, Fee: \$2.00

Pre-registration required

Learn about fish anatomy as we recycle some common household items to create some colorful fish.



JOURNEY WITH WATER

Monday, September 25th
2-4 PM

Grades: 3-8, Fee: \$2.00

Pre-registration required

Have you ever wondered where water goes when it evaporates? Or how long it is frozen in a glacier? We will perform some neat experiments and create some fun objects while we explore the wild water cycle.

~Senior Wednesdays~

Adults 55+

No Registration Required

GYOTAKU: THE JAPANESE ART OF FISH PRINTING

Wednesday, July 5th
1:30 – 3:00 PM, Free

Gyo = Fish Taku = Impression.

"Gyotaku" is the ancient Japanese folk art of printing fish. Create a beautiful item using this unusual art.



BOATING THE ARKANSAS RIVER

Wednesday, August 2nd
1:30 – 3:00 PM, Free

Chris Collins of the Wichita Area Paddlers will take will take us on a a virtual float trip down one of our state's scenic waterways, the Arkansas River.

AFTER THE STORM

Wednesday, September 6th
1:30 – 3:00 PM, Free

Curtis Redington of the Department of Environmental Services will share a vision of post-Katrina New Orleans through the eyes of an environmental health officer.

Ripple Effects

*“For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.”
~ Sir Isaac Newton*

In June 2005, WATER Center staff moved into their offices, opened the doors, and began presenting water quality and pollution prevention programs to the public. One year's effort included:

- 1086 visitors to the museum
- 345 educational programs
- 6851 program attendees

If you know of someone or something that has created a positive environmental ripple effect in our community and should be featured in *H₂O*, contact the WATER Center at 316-337-9262.

Get Bugged About Water Quality

Macroinvertebrates, animals with no backbone that are visible to the naked eye, illustrate the water quality of our streams and rivers.

The health of any body of water can be measured by the number of different kinds of “bugs” that are living there. Some creatures are more sensitive to pollution while others can tolerate vast swings in temperature, pH, and dissolved oxygen.

By collecting and counting macroinvertebrates, biologists can classify a stream or river as “excellent,” “good,” “fair,” or “poor.”

Since these small creatures cannot travel as far as fish or other animals, macroinvertebrates must live and adapt to the water conditions where they hatched.

A complex community of macroinvertebrates lives in the



WATER Center's fountains, outdoor aquarium and meandering stream.

To see some of the common macroinvertebrates living at the WATER Center, reach into the fountains and grab a handful of algae. Squeeze the water out and look for movement. The “bugs” that live in this artificial habitat include scuds, midge larvae, water boatmen, water striders, whirligig beetles, and snails.

Bountiful Harvest

Due to the unique conditions of the WATER Center's creek, watercress grows in an over abundance.

Water from the treatment building flows through the creek at a temperature of 55-degrees Fahrenheit. This cold water provides the perfect growing conditions for watercress, a native plant normally only found near natural springs.

Through the end of September, the WATER Center will allow the collection of

watercress. This plant is a common ingredient in many recipes.

- Before collecting, please contact staff at 316-337-9262
- No other types of plants should be collected
- Edible plants often resemble other, sometimes-poisonous species. Make sure you know what you are picking!

WATER Center Staff

The WATER Center is a project of the City of Wichita's Department of Environmental Services “Protecting Health – Preserving the Environment”

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Water Resources Analyst

What is Xeriscape?

This low-water landscaping technique can produce beautiful results!

Xeriscape is a method of landscaping that promotes water conservation. Rather than a specific “look” or a limited group of plants, Xeriscape is a combination of seven basic landscaping principles.

- Planning and design
- Efficient irrigation systems -- properly designed and maintained
- Use of mulch
- Soil preparation
- Appropriate turf
- Water-efficient plant material
- Appropriate maintenance

Did You Know?

One gallon of gasoline can contaminate 2,000,000-10,000,000 gallons of groundwater.

~University of Wisconsin

